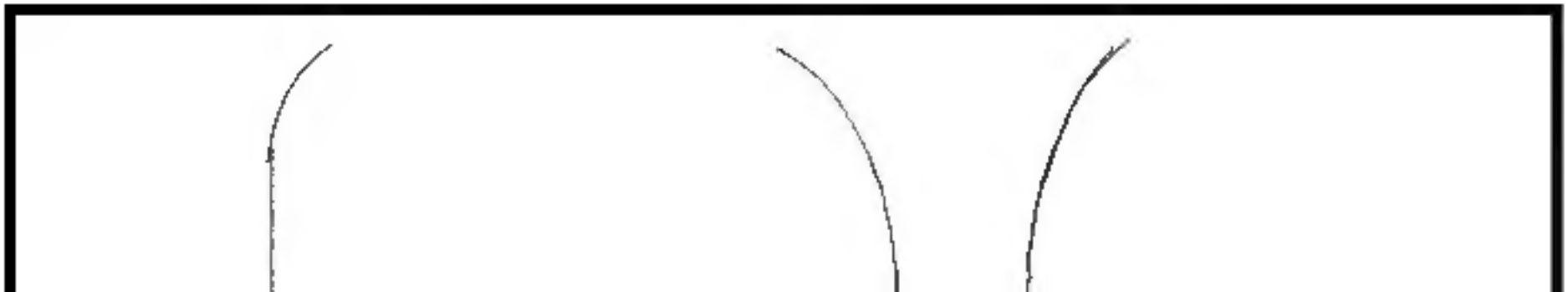


DON AND GYRUS HAVE BEEN GONE FOR QUITE SOME TIME...

I WONDER WHAT THEY ARE SPEAKING ABOUT...

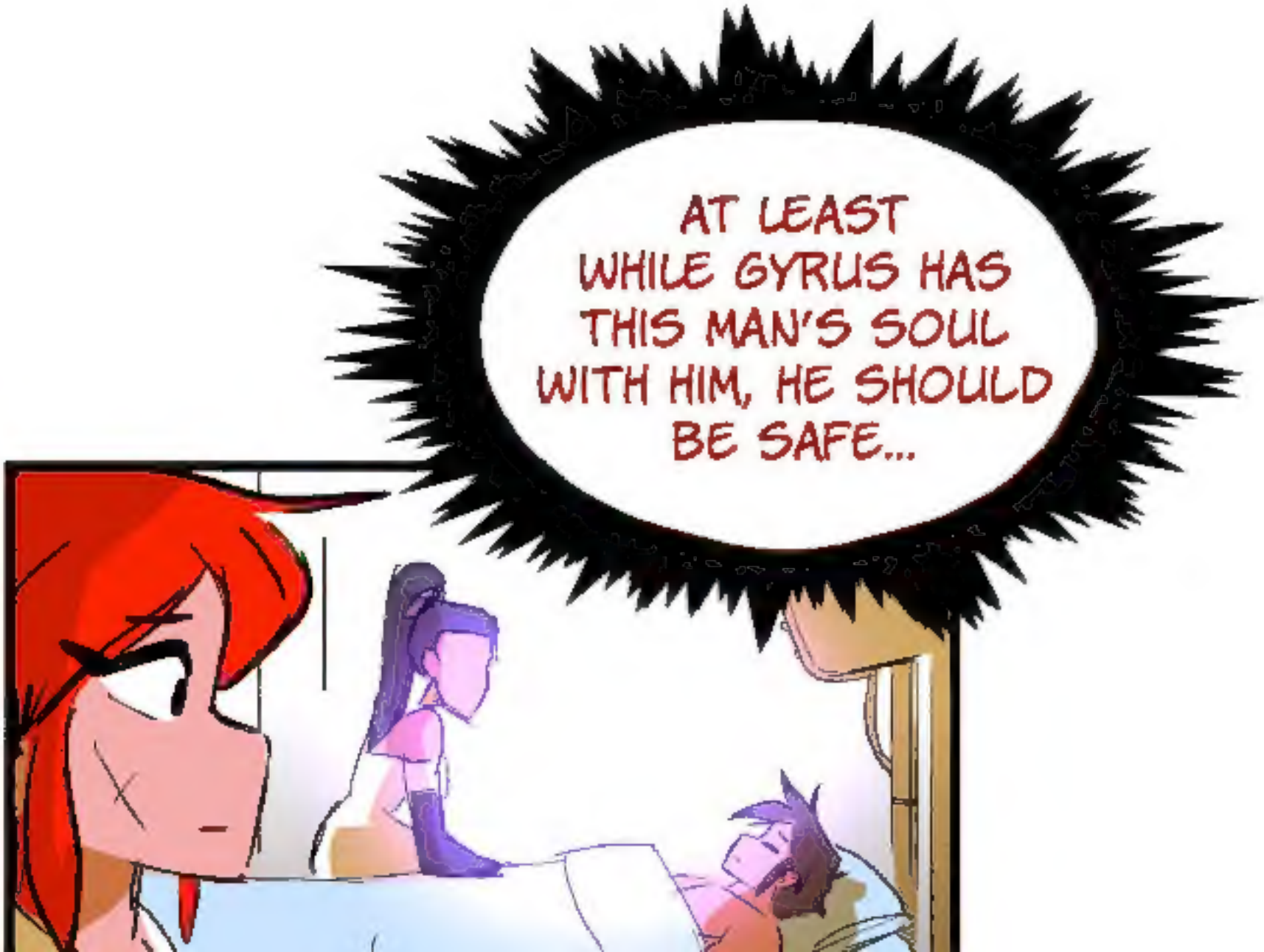
GYRUS IS
NOT IN TROUBLE,
IS HE?

NO, SYLVIA
AND I DID NOT REVEAL
ANYTHING ABOUT SHADOWS
WHEN THEY QUESTIONED
US...

BESIDES,
NEPHTHYS ALREADY
CONVINCED THEM TO
SPARE HIM...

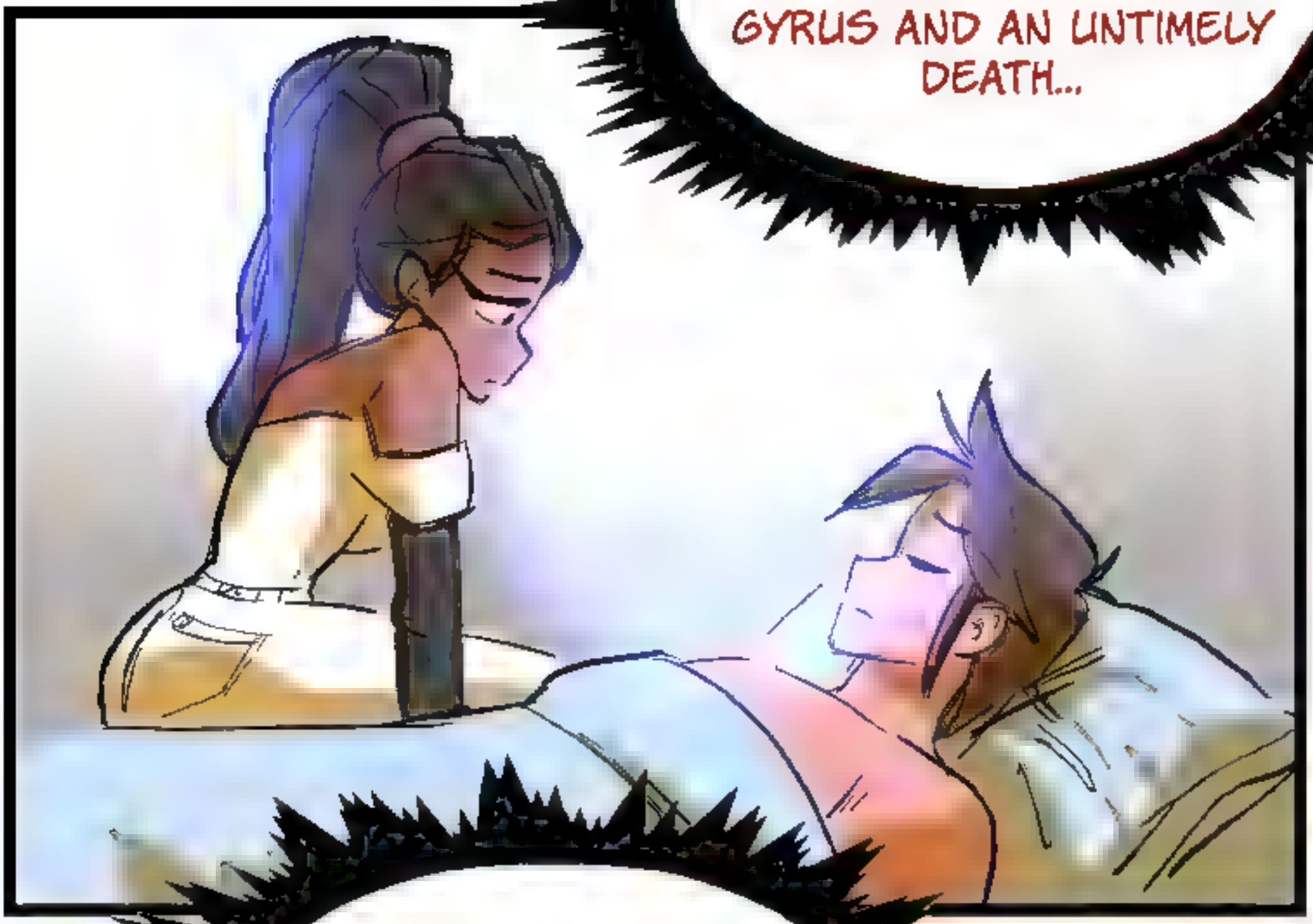
STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 69
"MAYBE THIS LIFE IS THE RIGHT ONE"


AT LEAST WHILE GYRUS HAS THIS MAN'S SOUL WITH HIM, HE SHOULD BE SAFE...

KODYA...
I FOUND HIM TO BE QUITE A CALLOUS FELLOW WHEN WE MET...

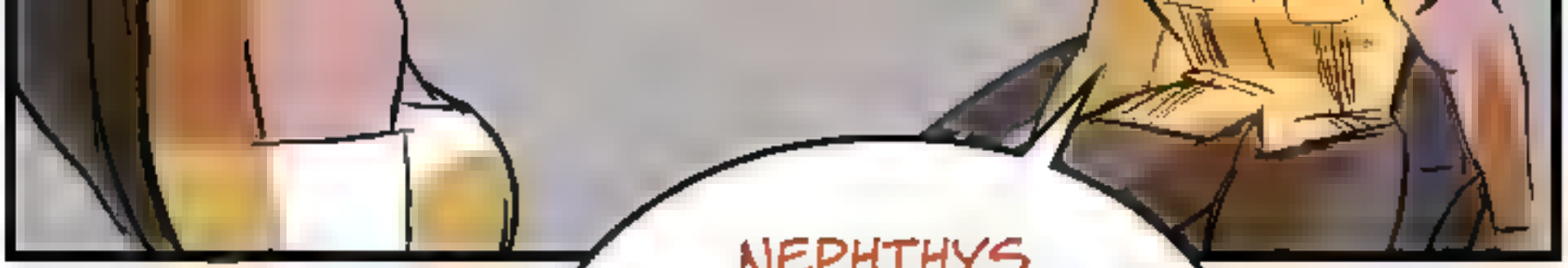
AND NOW HE'S THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN GYRUS AND AN UNTIMELY DEATH...



...BUT JUDGING BY THE WAY PEOPLE CARE FOR HIM, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING DECENT ABOUT HIM.

SLIDE

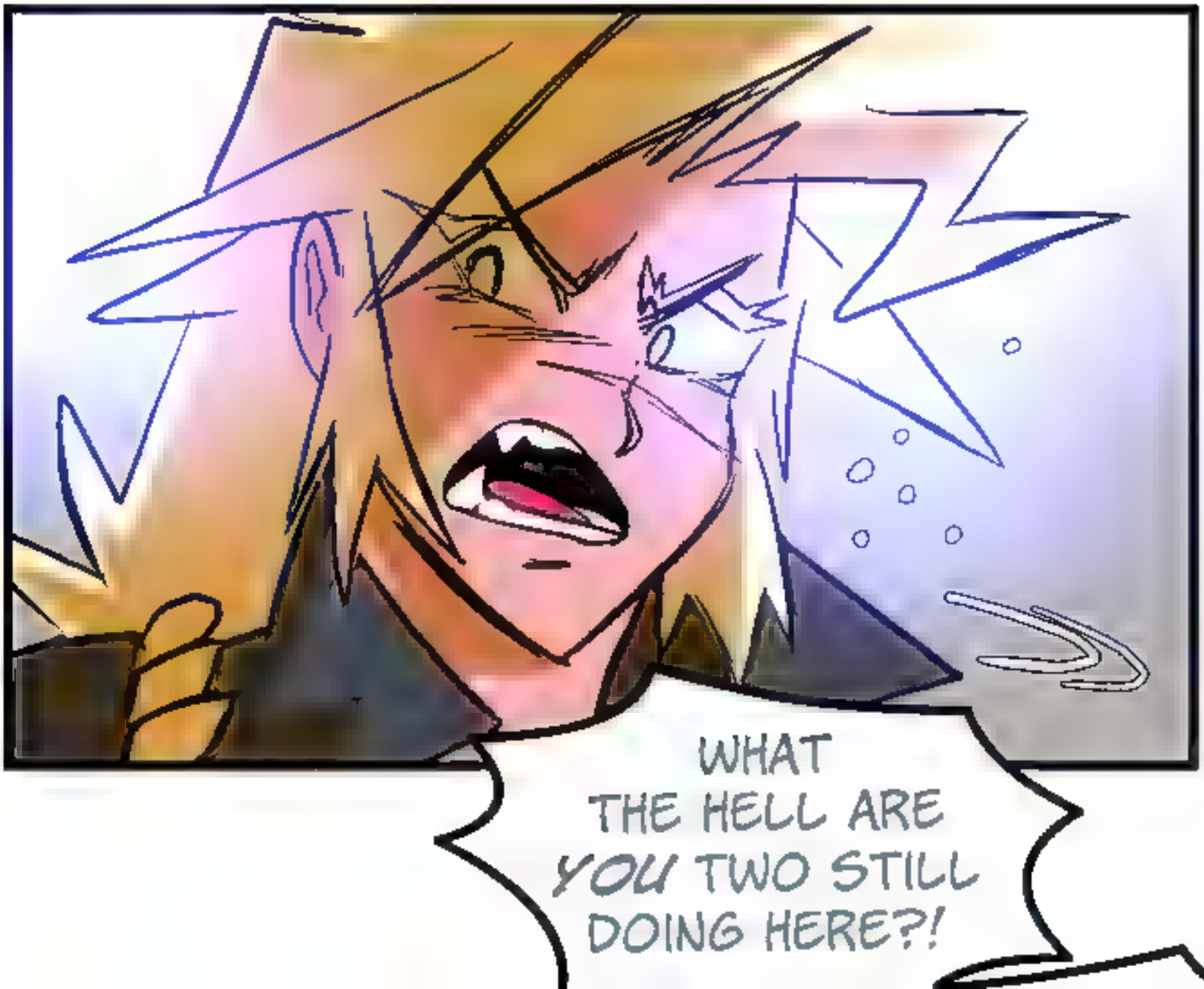
TAK



NEPHTHYS, I'D LIKE YOUR COUNSEL ON A CONCERNING MATTER...

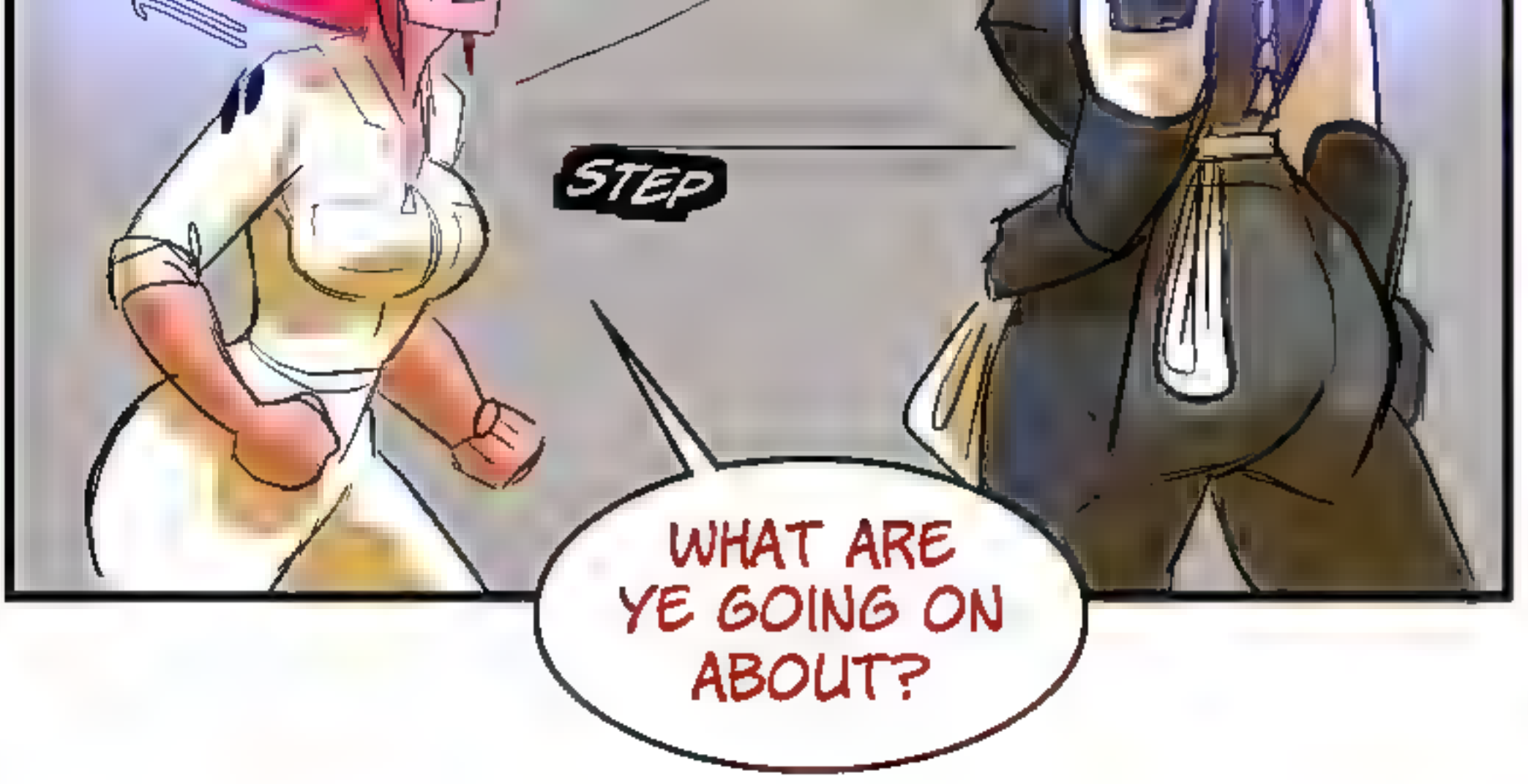
YE *AGAIN?*

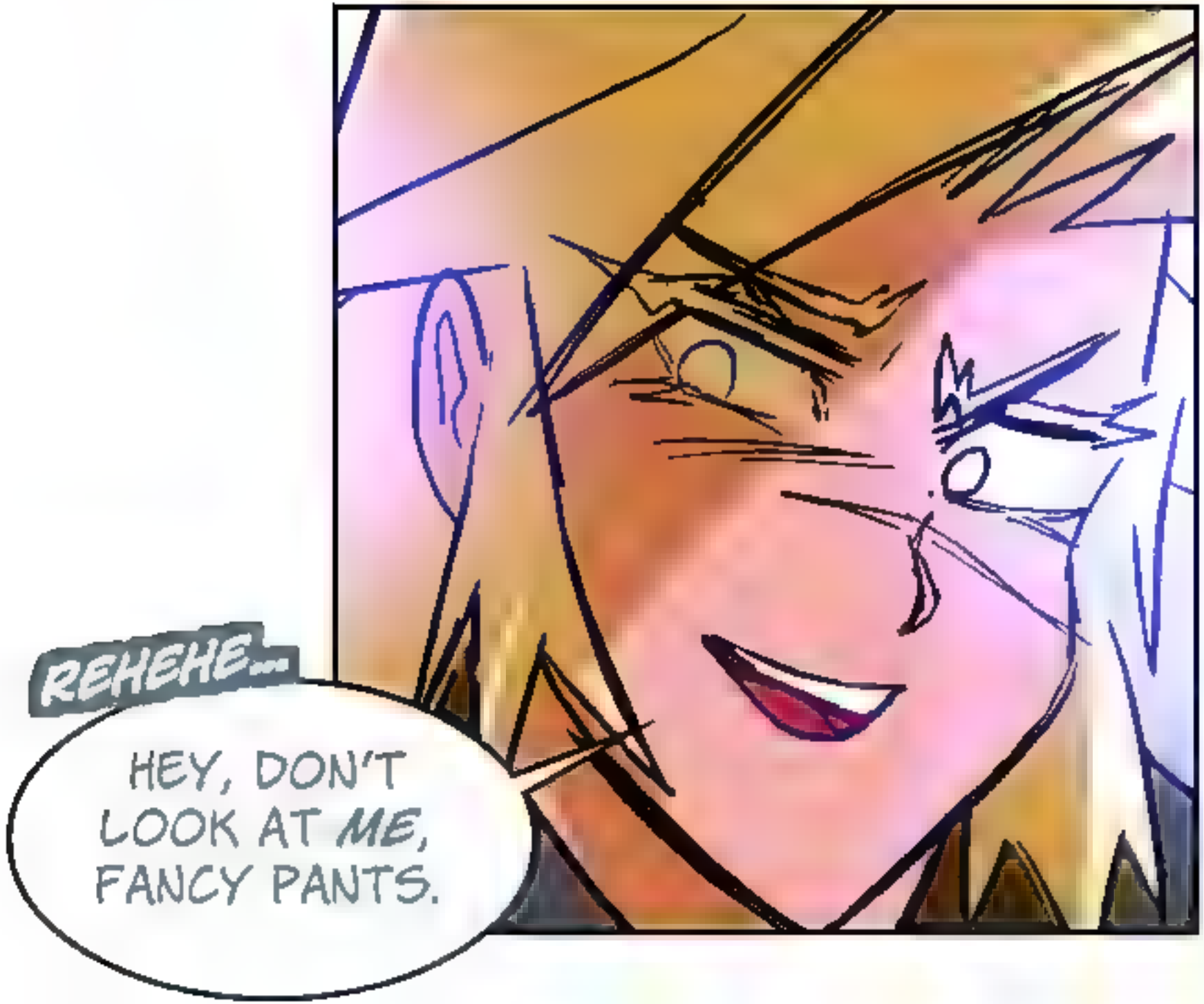
BUT WHERE IS GYRUS!?


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO STILL DOING HERE?!

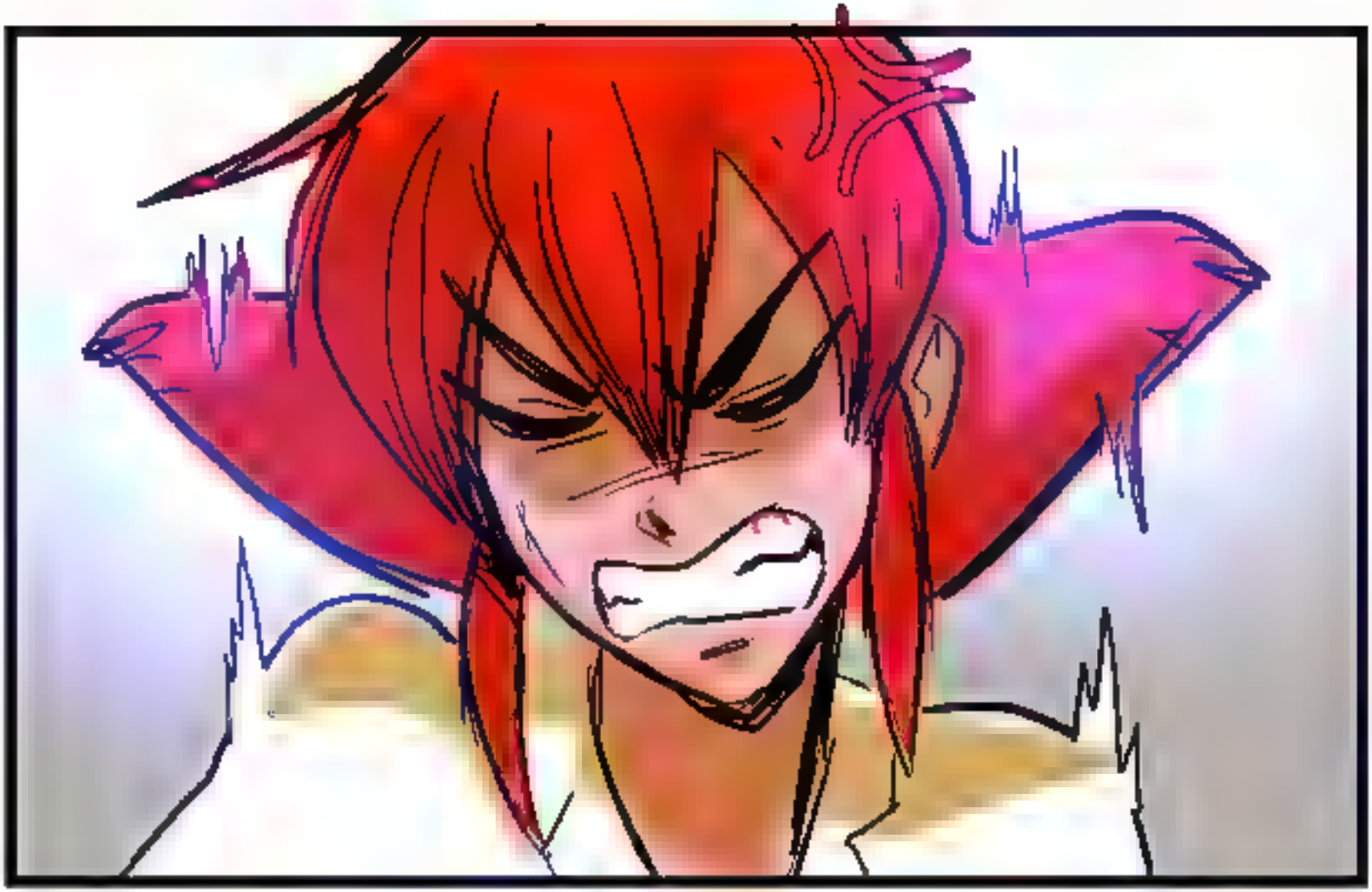
DON'T YOU HAVE SOME DIRTY TOILETS TO SCRUB?!!
RUB
RUB

WE ARE WAITING FOR GYRUS.
AWW... DIDN'T NEPHTHYS TELL YOU?
HE'S NOT COMING BACK.


STEP
WHAT ARE YE GOING ON ABOUT?

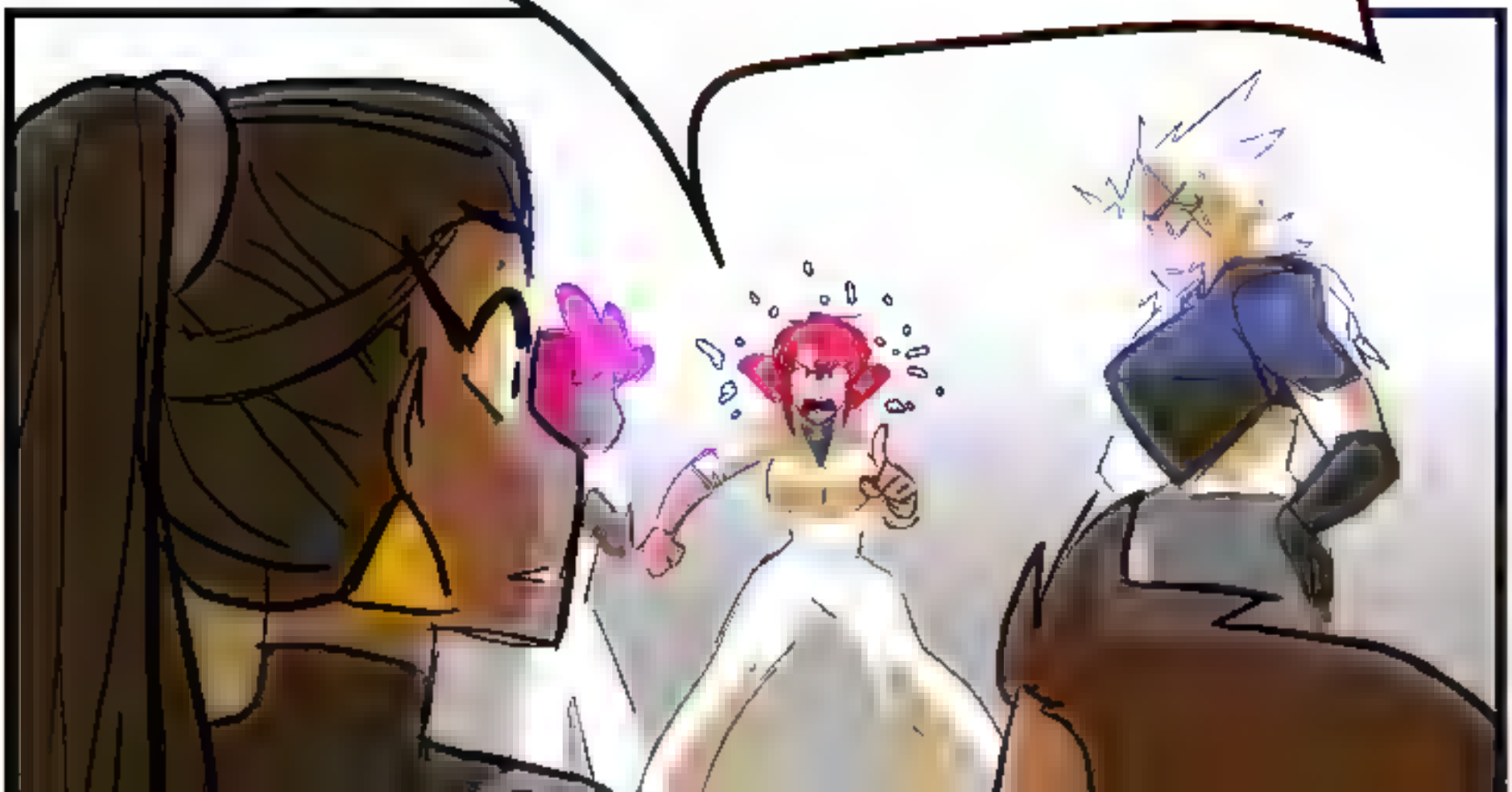

REHEHE...
HEY, DON'T LOOK AT *ME*, FANCY PANTS.

NEPHTHYS?!
UH, WELL...
IT'S COMLICATED
AND...

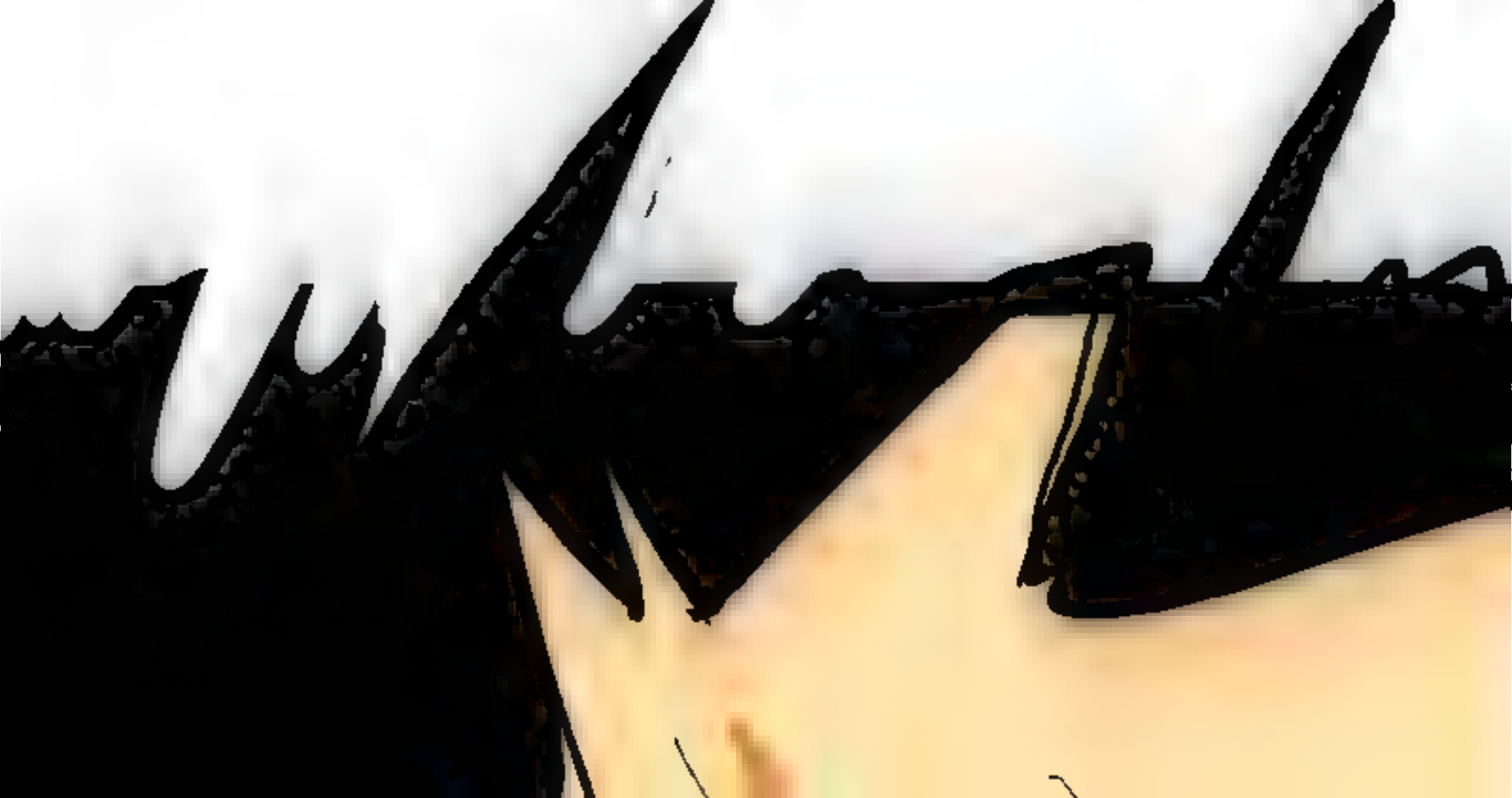


DO YE
TAKE US FOR
FOOLS?!

WITHOUT OUR HELP, KODYA, GYRUS AND *THREE* OF THY PRECIOUS SWORDS WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST TO THAT REALM!



IT IS
TIME YE STARTED
SHOWING RESPECT WITH
SOME STRAIGHT
ANSWERS!

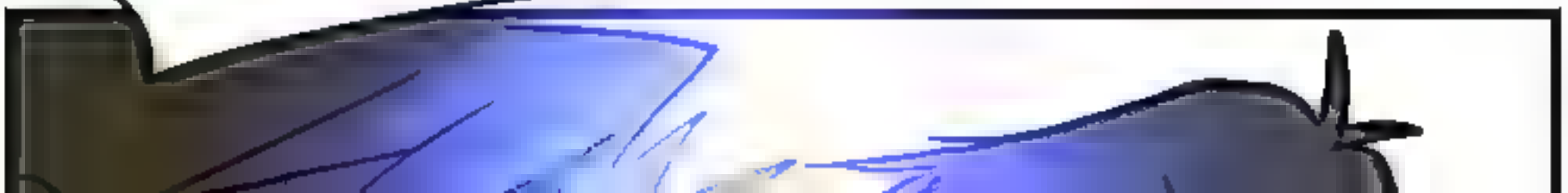


HEY,
PIPE DOWN!

YOU'RE HERE WAITING ON A MURDEROUS TRAITOR!
AND YOU WONDER WHY WE DON'T RESPECT YOU!!?

PERHAPS HE TURNED TRAITOR BECAUSE YE WERE SUCH AN *UNBEARABLE HAG!*

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IN HEL-HEIM YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, YOU *PRISSY LITTLE SHIT!*



WHO ARE YE CALLING "PRISSY", YE BORRISH, ARROGANT--

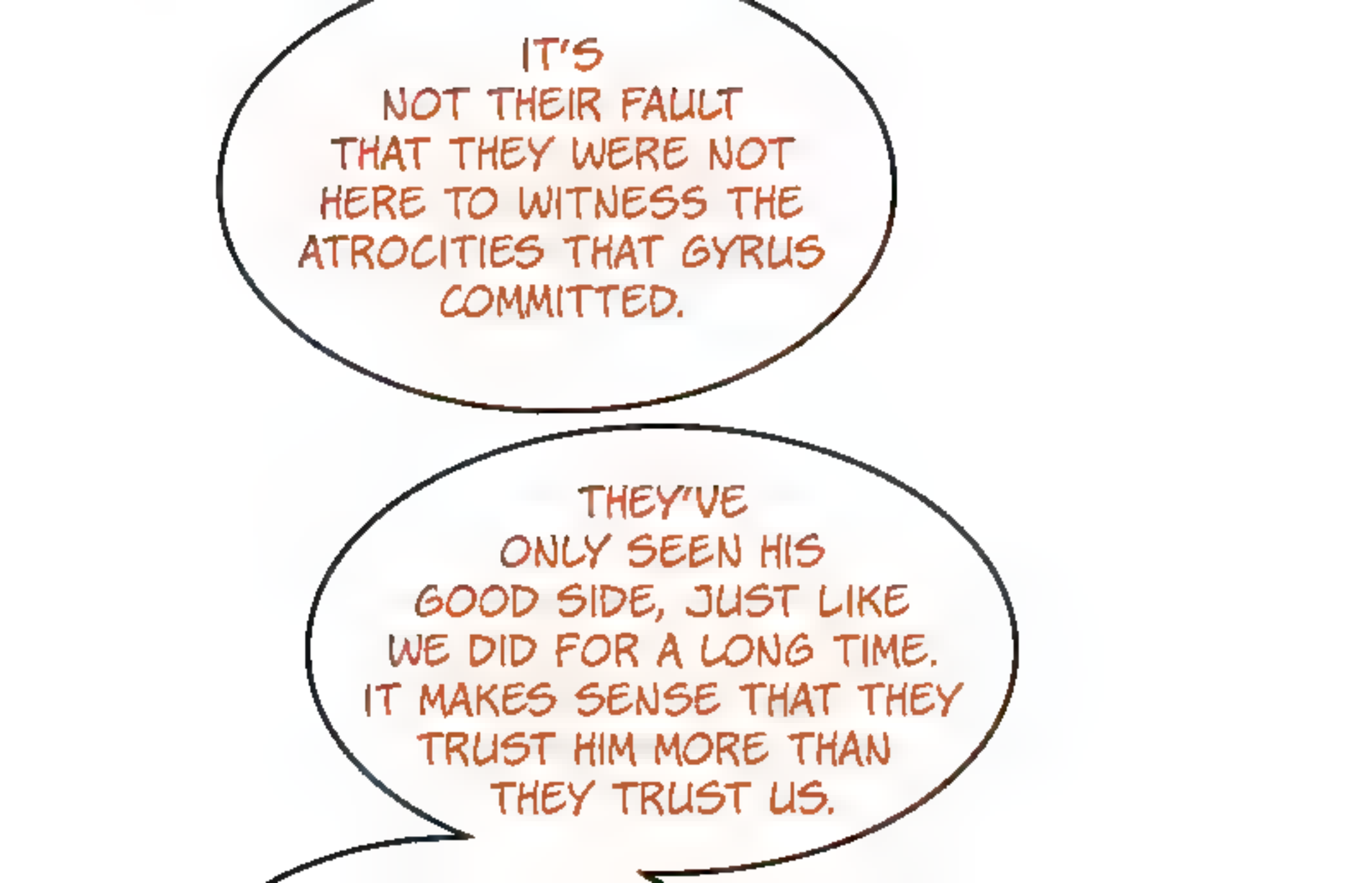
WHAT, DID I HURT YOUR TINY PAMPERED FEELINGS?!

SAY THAT AGAIN AND I WILL HURT MORE THAN *FEELINGS!*

TORI DOES HAVE A POINT.

HUH?!
HUH?!

WE'VE BEEN SO FOCUSED ON EVERYONE'S SAFETY, BUT WE MUST SEEM LIKE MONSTERS TO TORI AND SYLVIA.

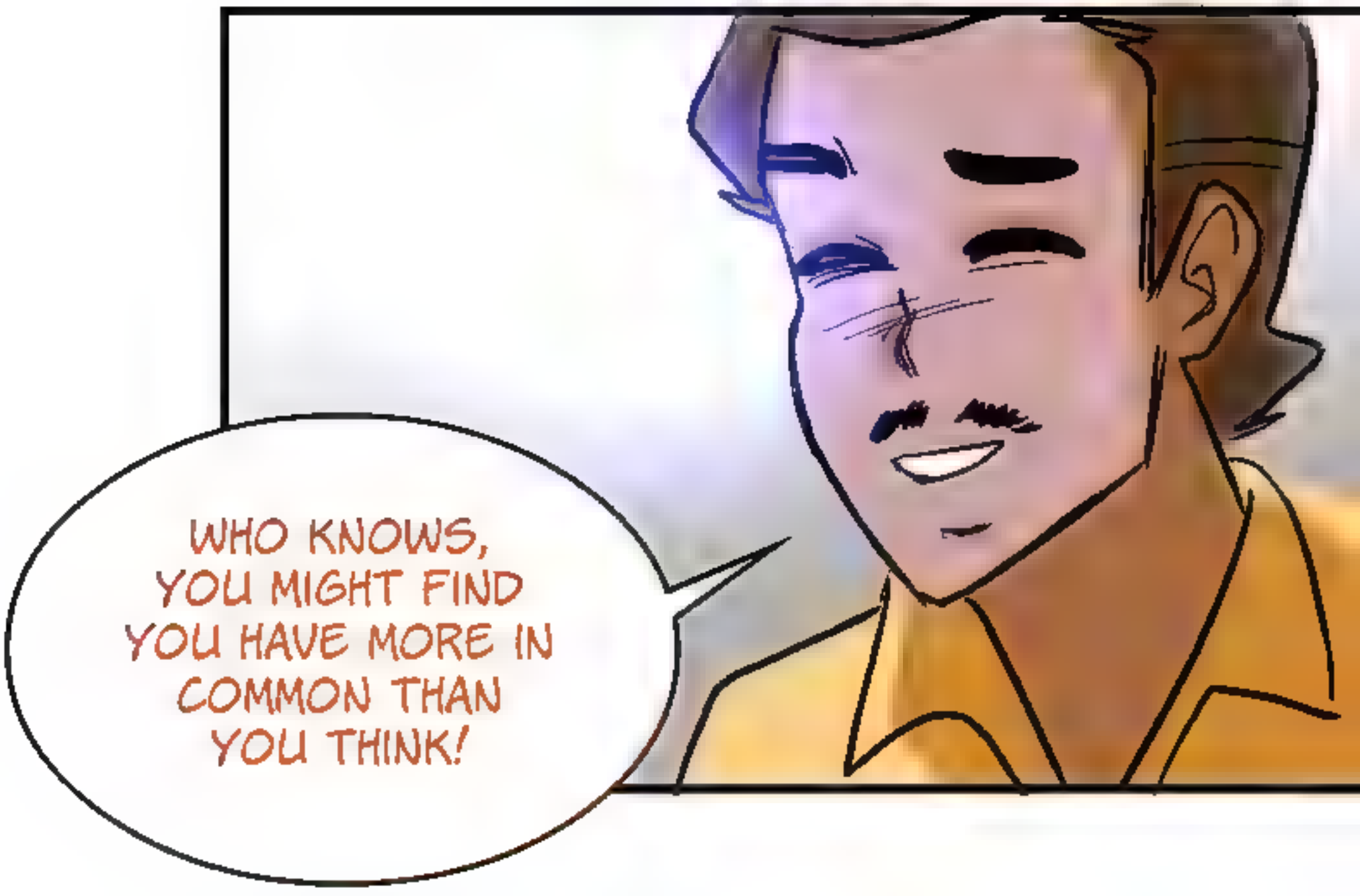

IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT THAT THEY WERE NOT HERE TO WITNESS THE ATROCITIES THAT GYRUS COMMITTED.
THEY'VE ONLY SEEN HIS GOOD SIDE, JUST LIKE WE DID FOR A LONG TIME. IT MAKES SENSE THAT THEY TRUST HIM MORE THAN THEY TRUST US.

WE NEED TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW US!

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE SAME FAMILY NOW.

RAGAN,
I THINK YOU'RE
THE PERFECT PERSON
TO SHOW THEM THE
ROPES.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
YE CAN NOT BE SERIOUS!


WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT FIND YOU HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK!

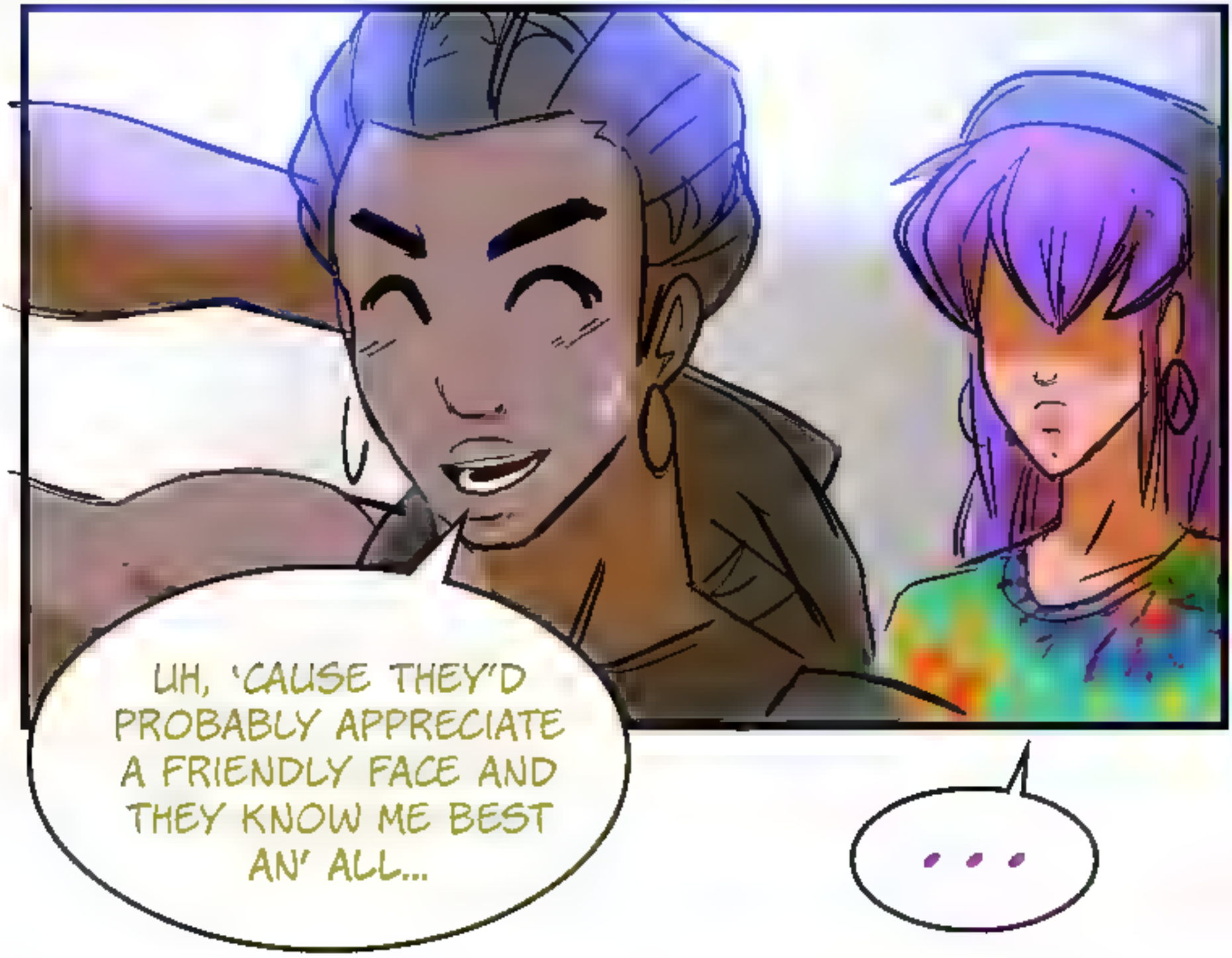
. . .
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO RUN SECURITY!

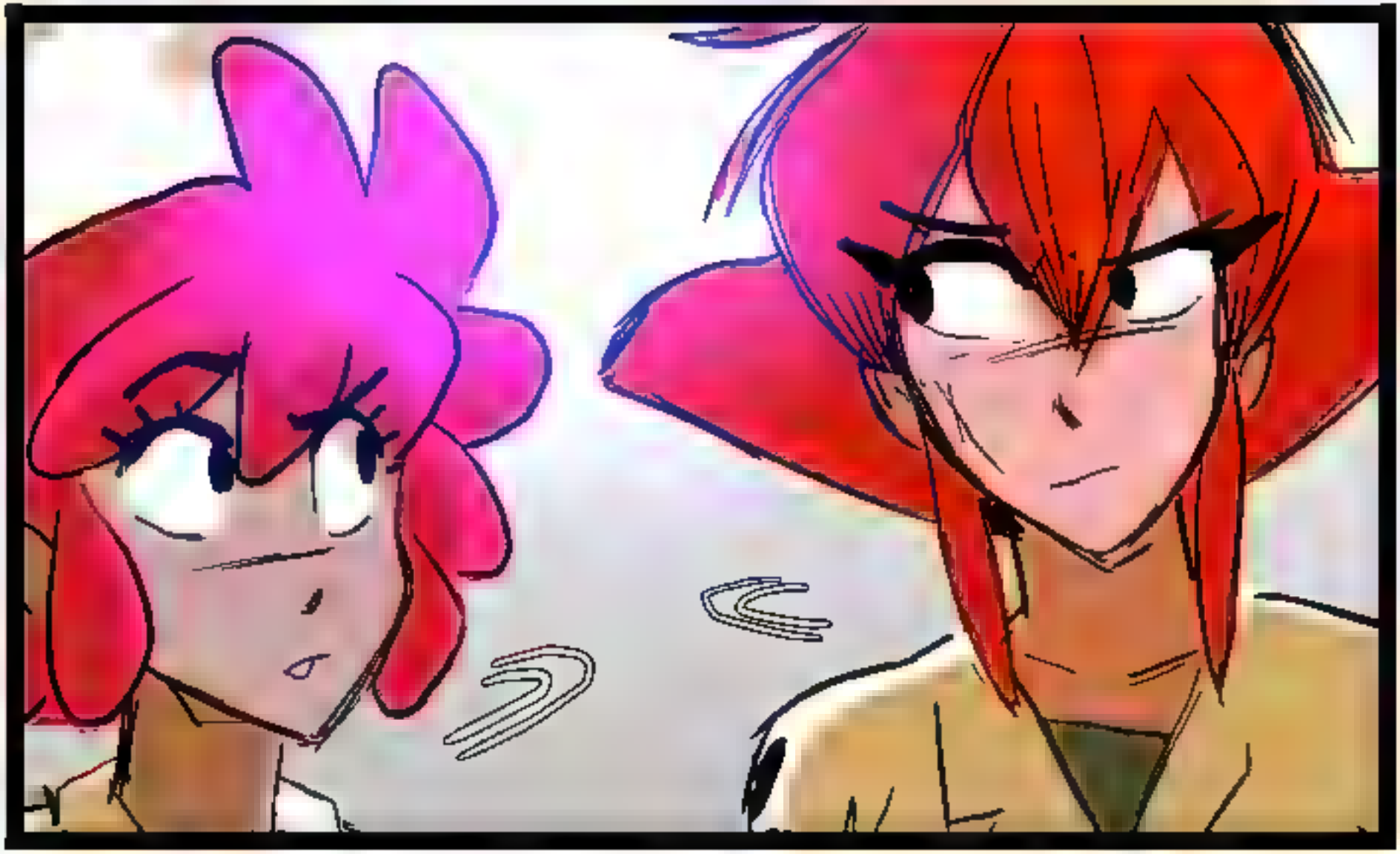
WE HAVE
IT UNDER CONTROL
FOR NOW...

I NOTICE WE'VE RUN OUT OF MANANAS...

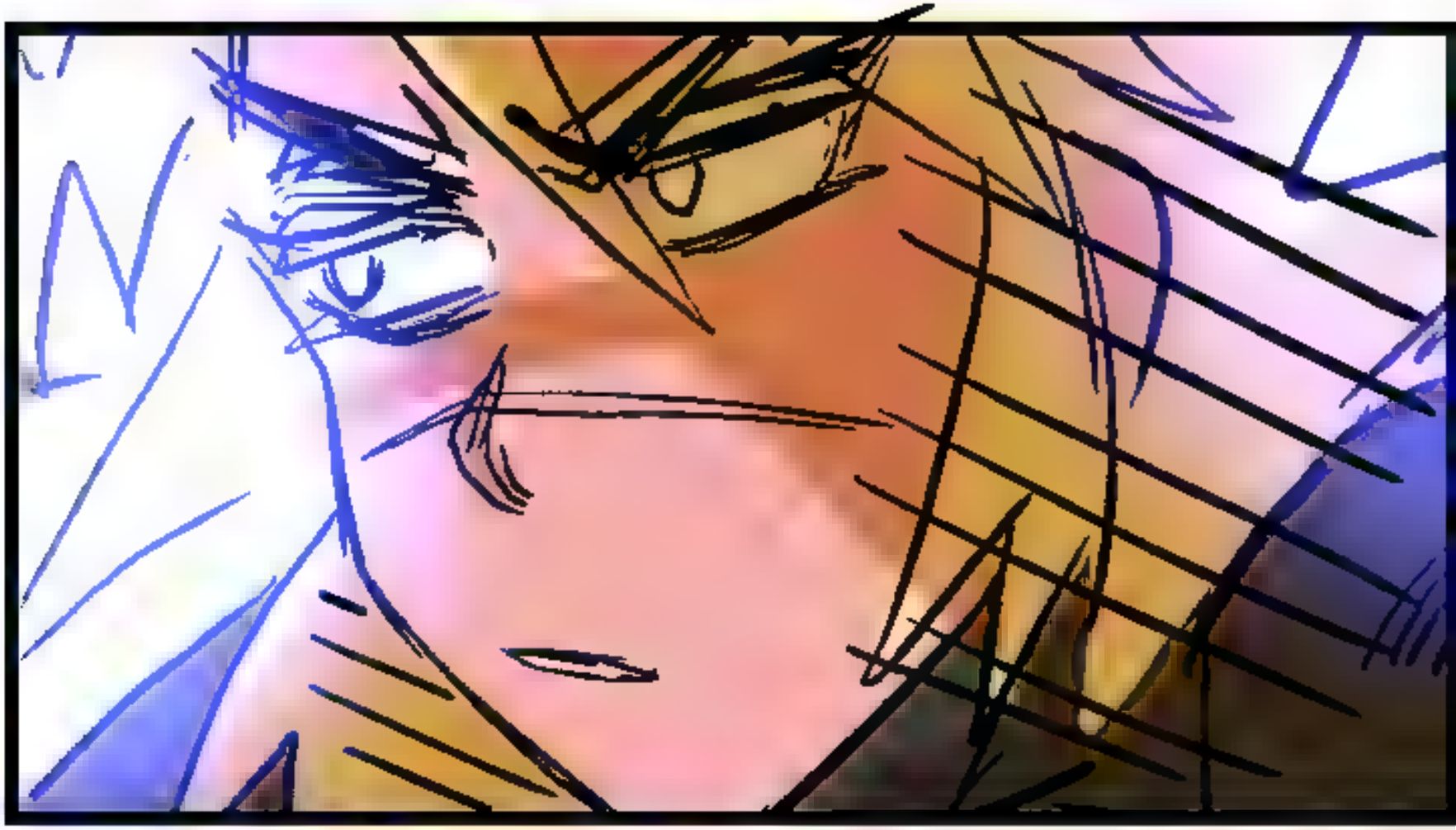
WHY NOT LEAD A SUPPLY RUN? LET TORI AND SYLVIA GET THEIR FEET WET.

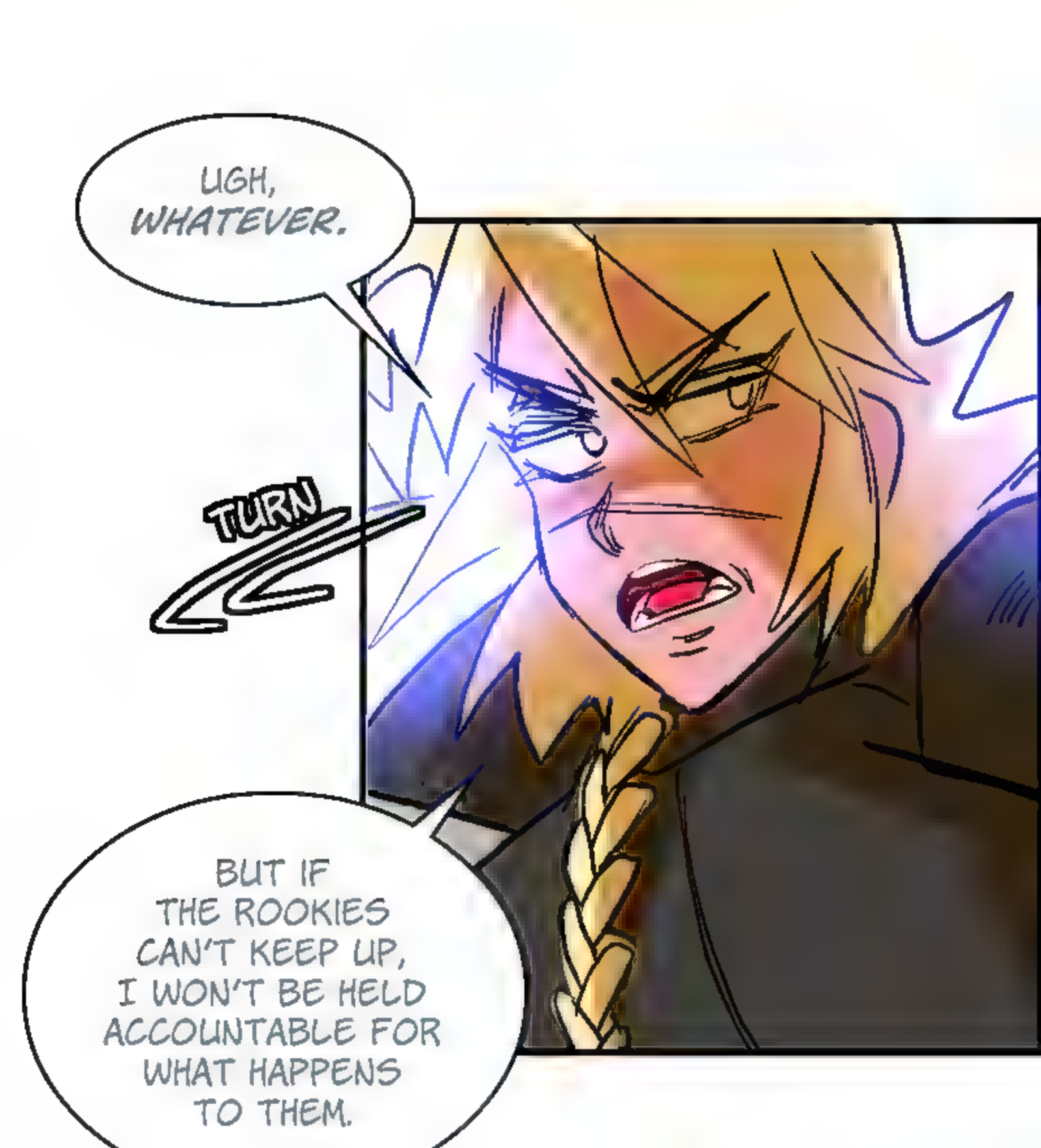
TAK
TAK
AYE,
I'LL JOIN
TOO.

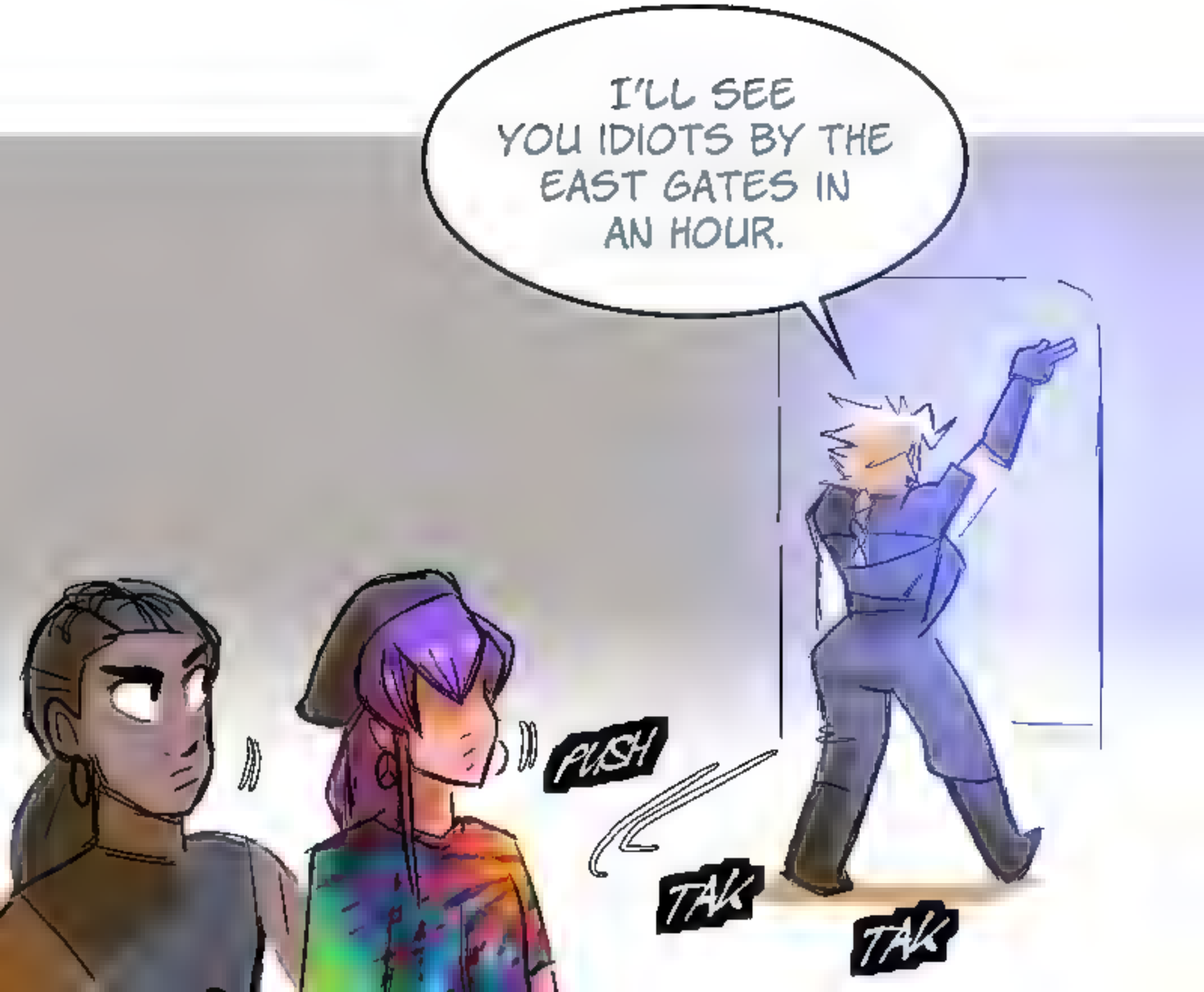

UH, 'CAUSE THEY'D PROBABLY APPRECIATE A FRIENDLY FACE AND THEY KNOW ME BEST AN' ALL...
. . .



YOU'LL NEED ME TOO.
STEP
NOT LEAST OF ALL TO KEEP AN EYE ON *THIS* GUY.



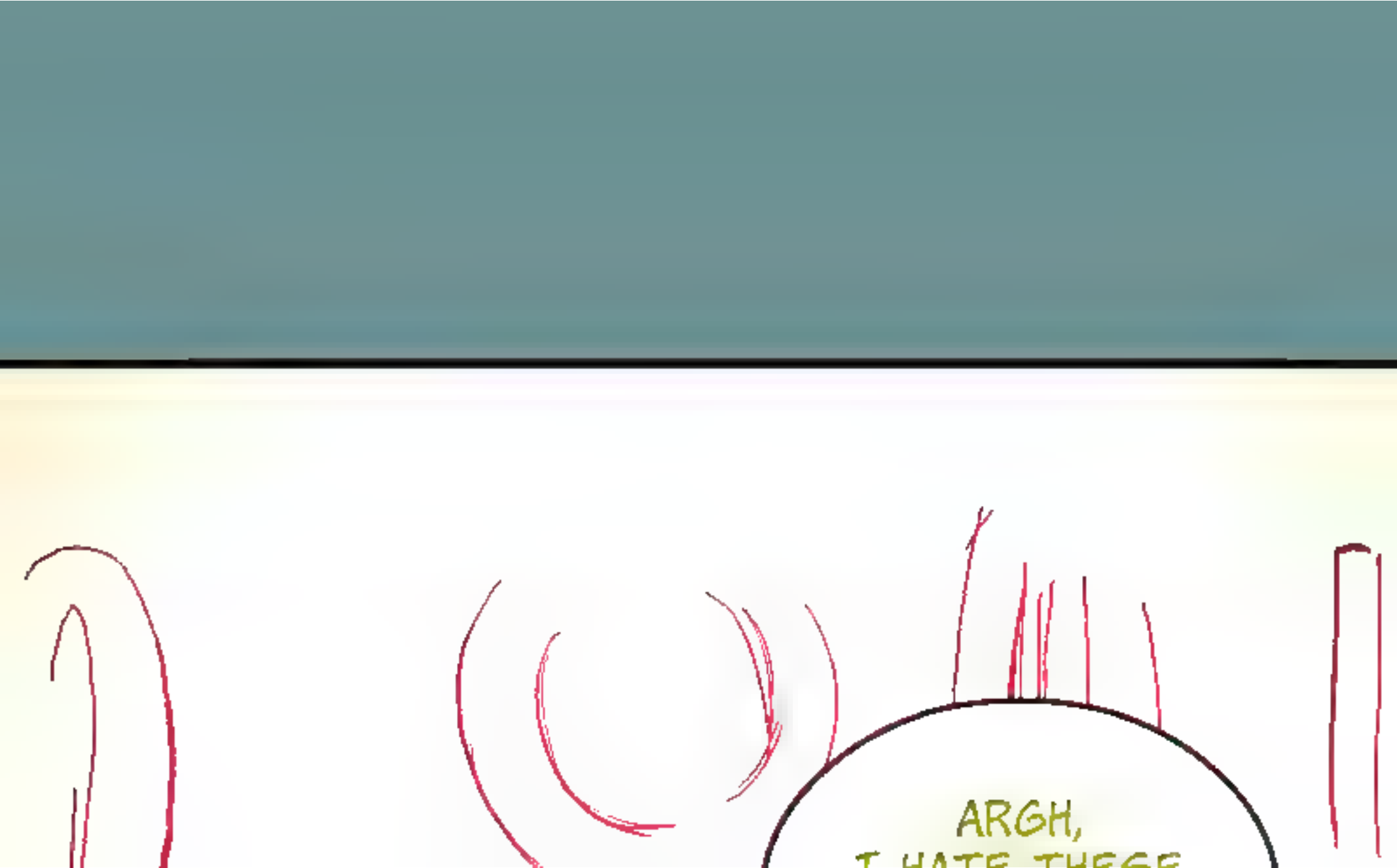

UGH,
WHATEVER.
TURN
BUT IF
THE ROOKIES
CAN'T KEEP UP,
I WON'T BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE FOR
WHAT HAPPENS
TO THEM.


I'LL SEE YOU IDIOTS BY THE EAST GATES IN AN HOUR.
PUSH
TAK
TAK

CAN'T WAIT.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

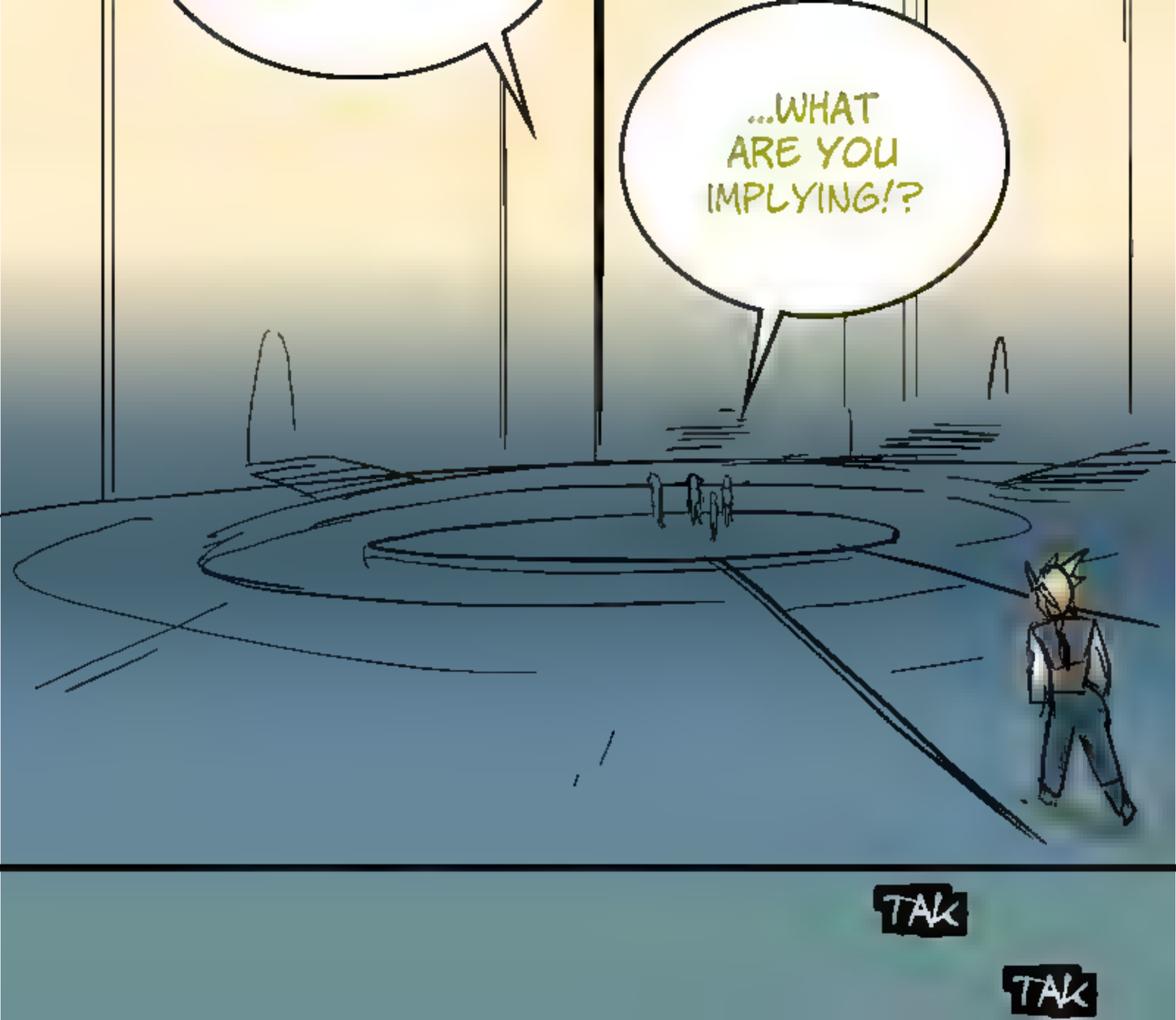

ARGH,
I HATE THESE

I HATE THESE EAST GATE REALMS...!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WE ALREADY BEAT ALL THESE REALMS.

YEAH, BUT STILL... THEY REALLY GET IN MY HEAD! EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SUPPLY RUN...

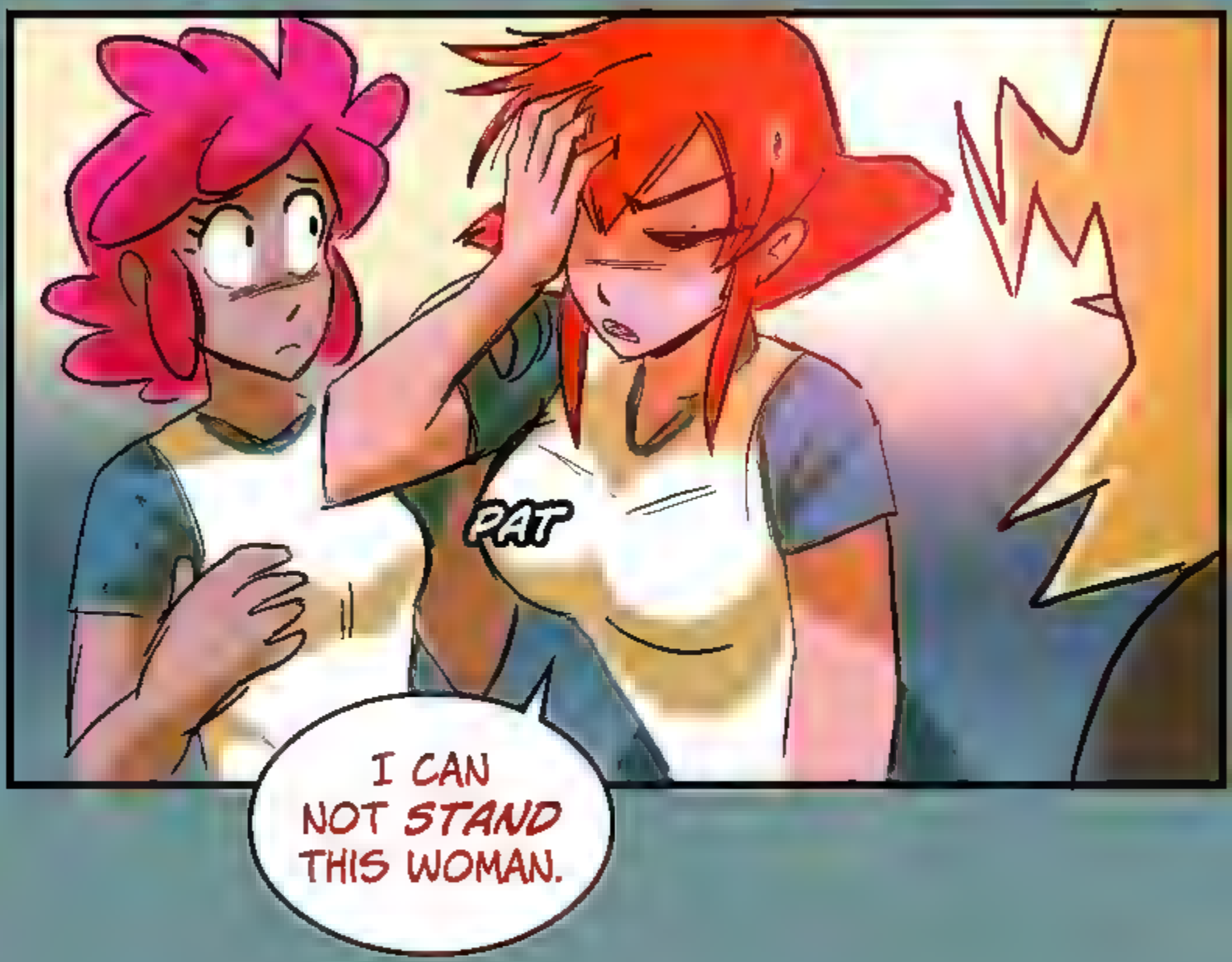
WELL THEY AREN'T FOR THE WEAK MINDED, THAT'S FOR SURE.


...WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING!?
TAK
TAK

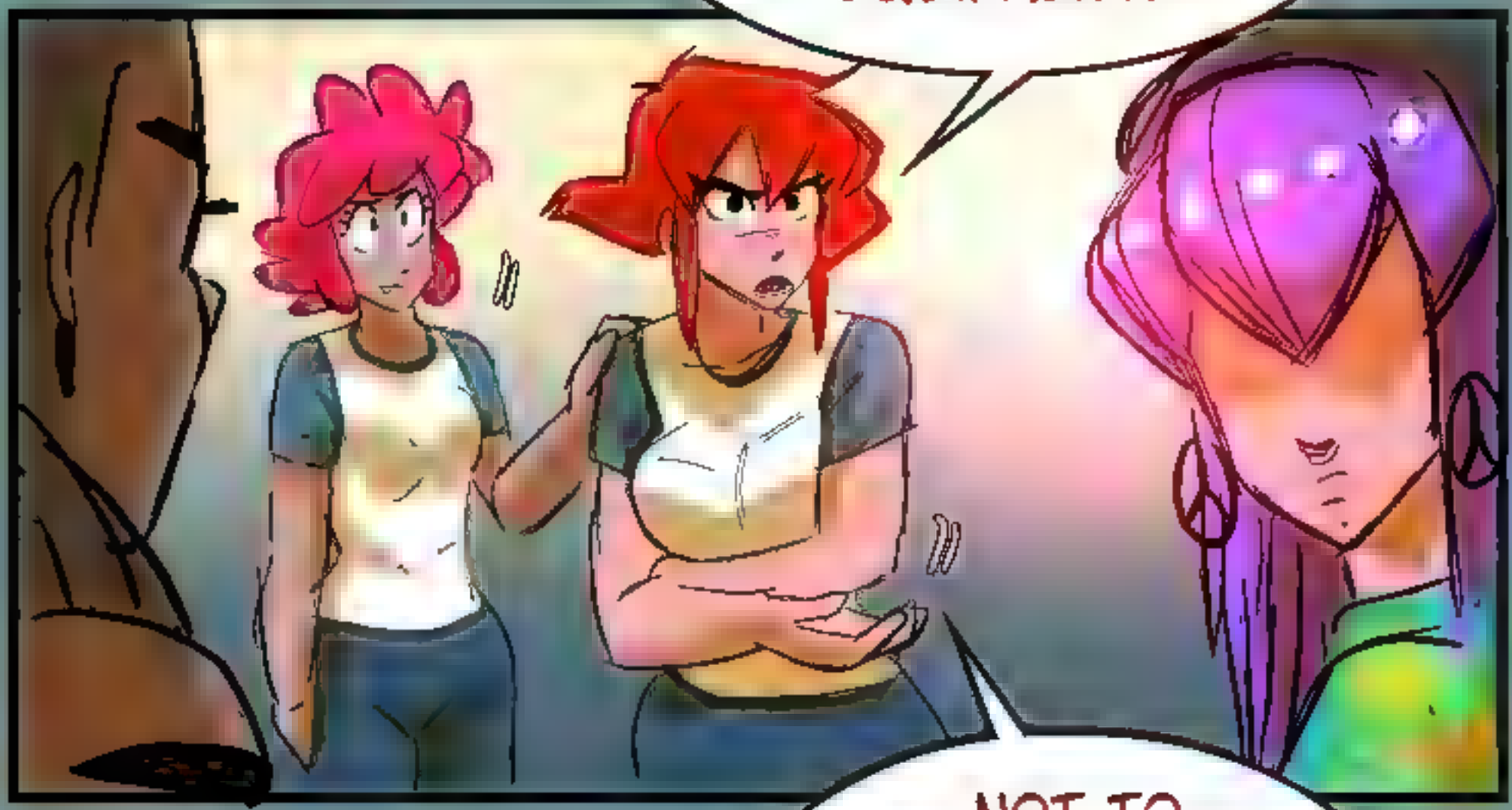
READY,
LAZY BUTTS?

LAZY?
WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THEE FOR OVER AN HOUR!

THAT WAS YOUR FIRST TEST: TELLING TIME.
TOUCH
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU PASSED.

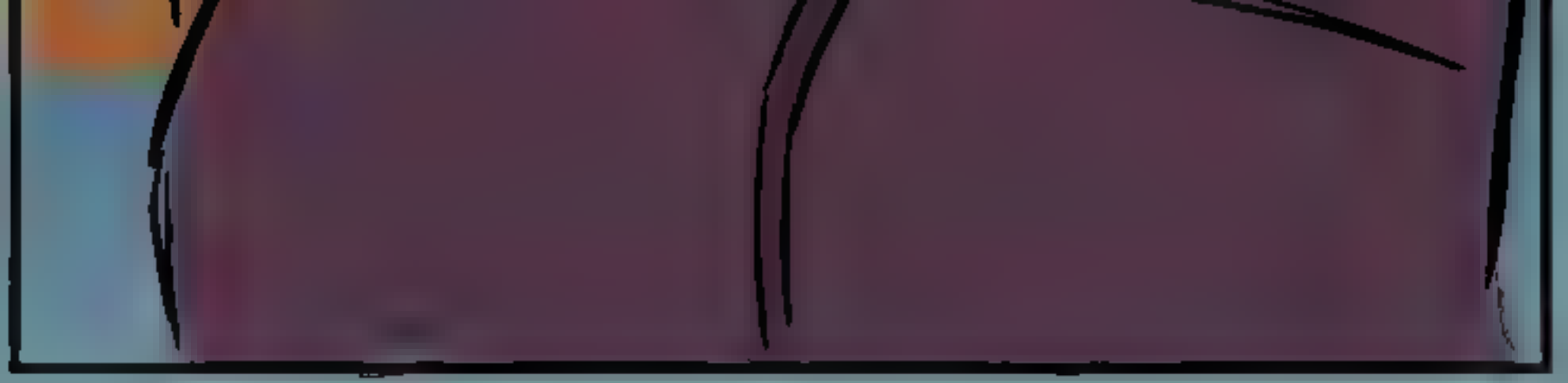

PAT
I CAN NOT STAND THIS WOMAN.

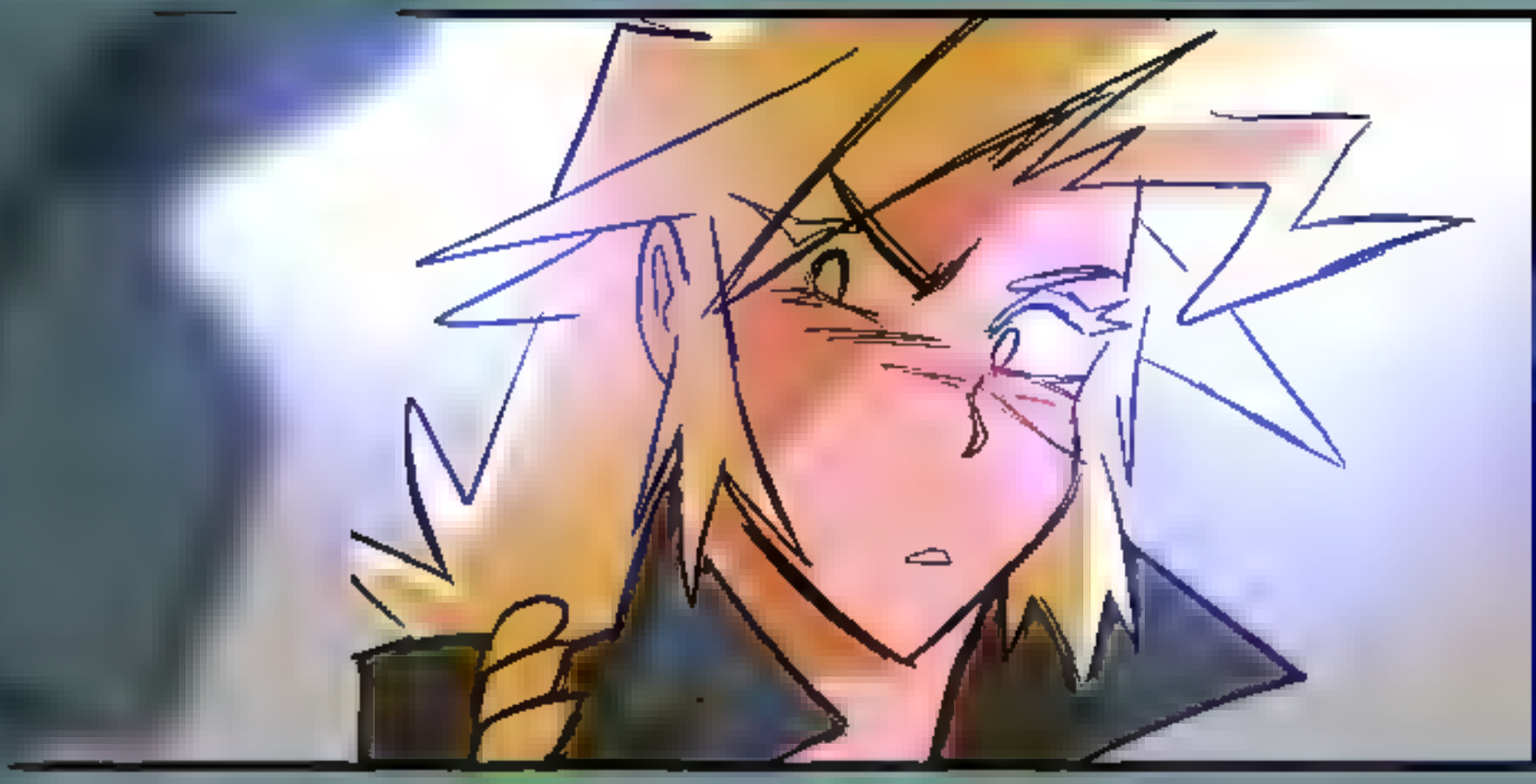
I HOPE YOU ALL BROUGHT YOUR EQUIPMENT.


YE NEVER TOLD US TO BRING EQUIPMENT!
NOT TO MENTION YE DID *SEIZE* OUR WEAPONS *AND* ARMOR.

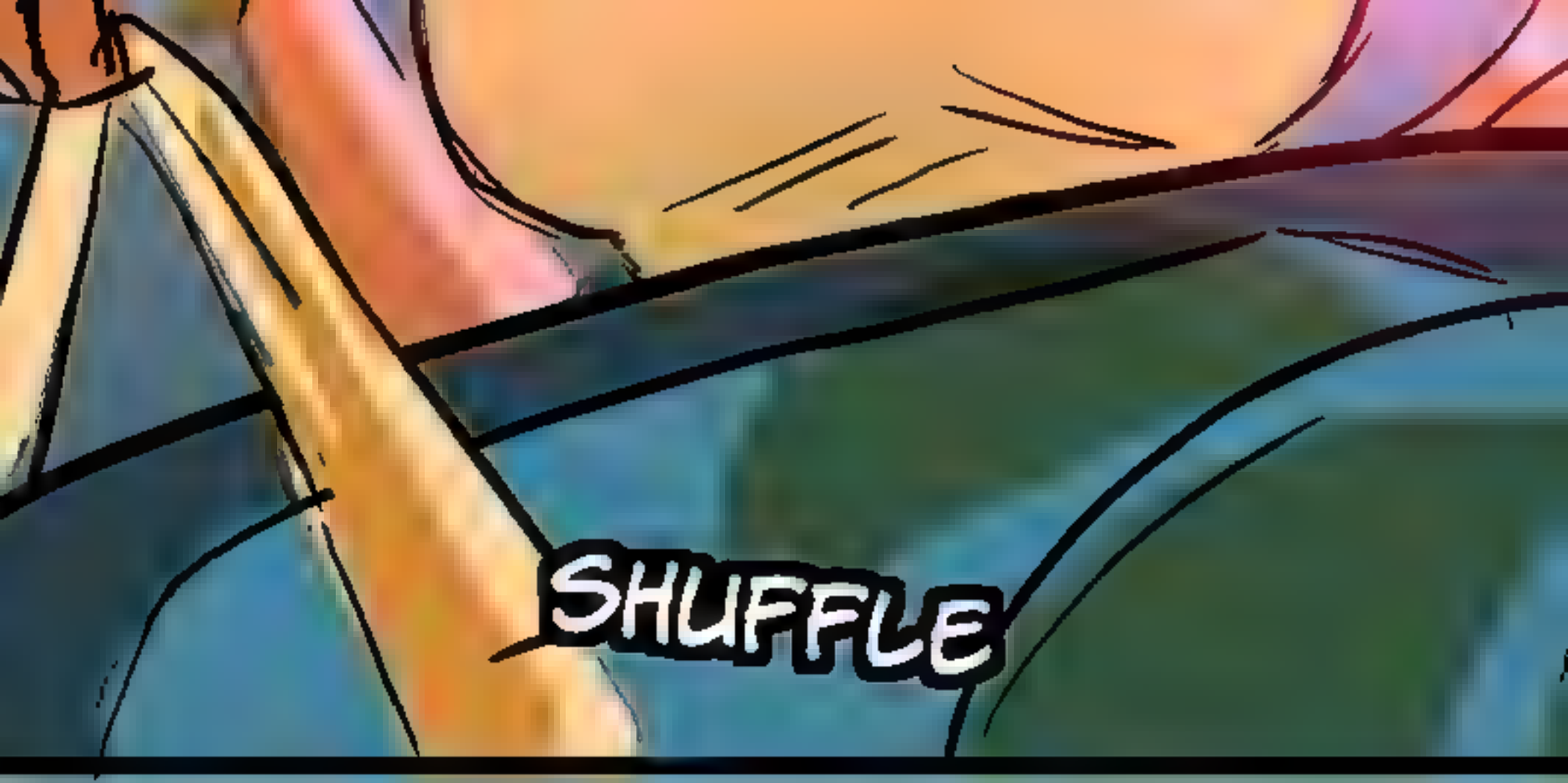
DON'T WORRY.
I PICKED SOME STUFF OUT FOR YOU!

THIS HAD BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER PERVERTED COSTUME.





SHUFFLE


SHUFFLE

AH... THIS IS....
ACTUALLY QUITE TASTEFUL.
AHAHA... WHAT WERE YA EXPECTING?

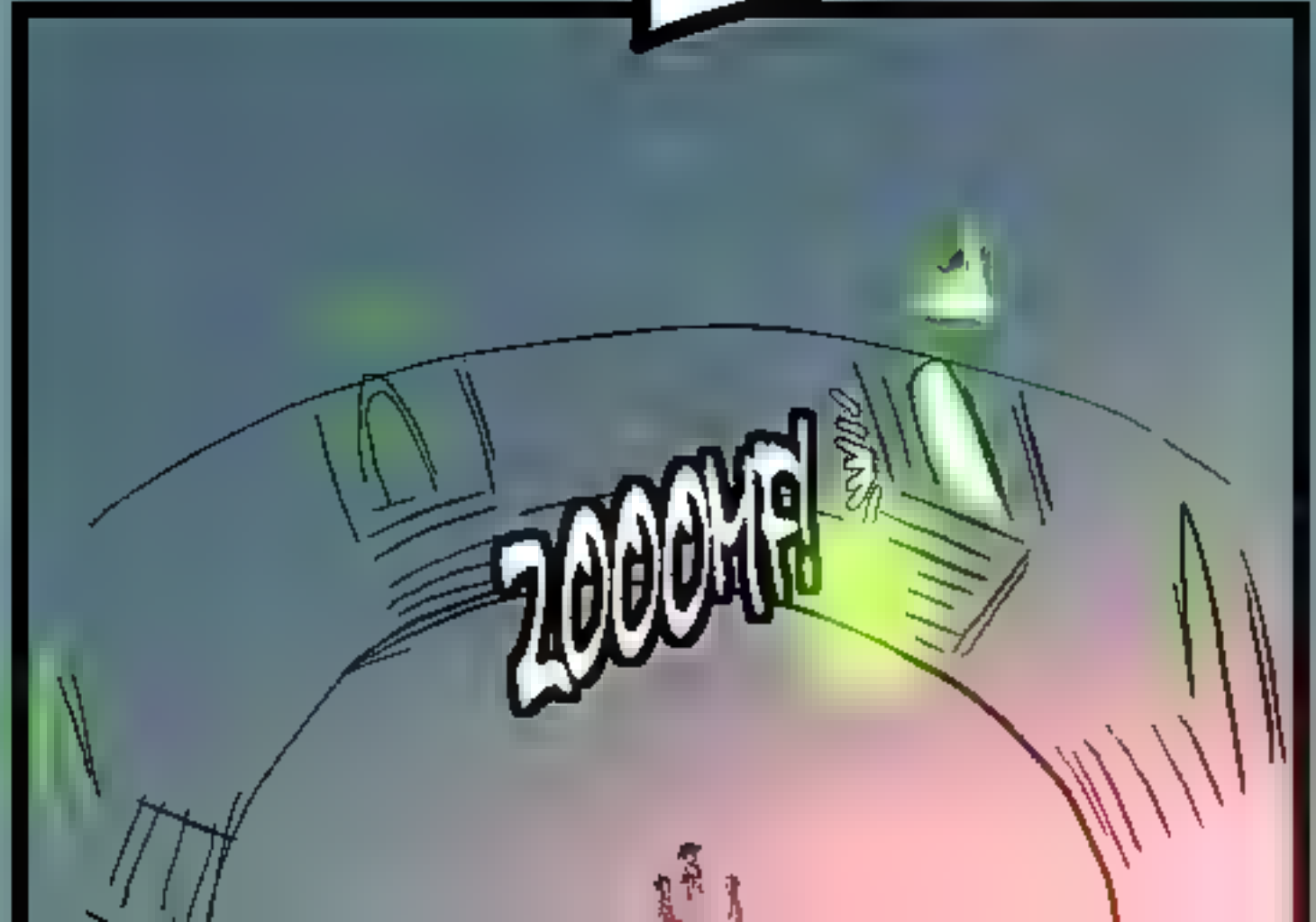
BAH!
DOESN'T MATTER *WHAT* YOU'RE WEARING.

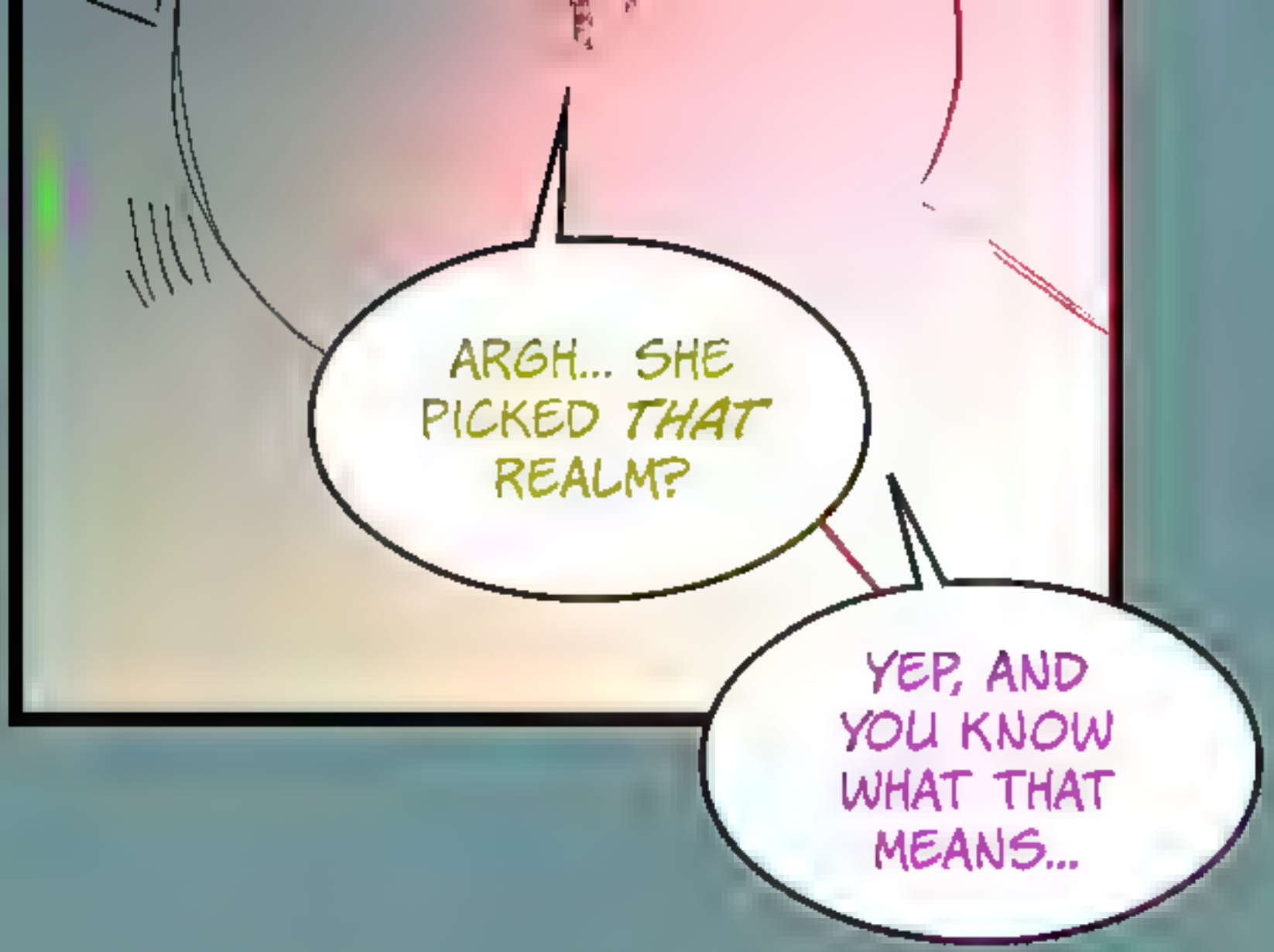
THIS REALM WILL LAY YOU BARE.
RAHAHA...

BUTTON UP, FANCY PANTS!
POKE
POKE

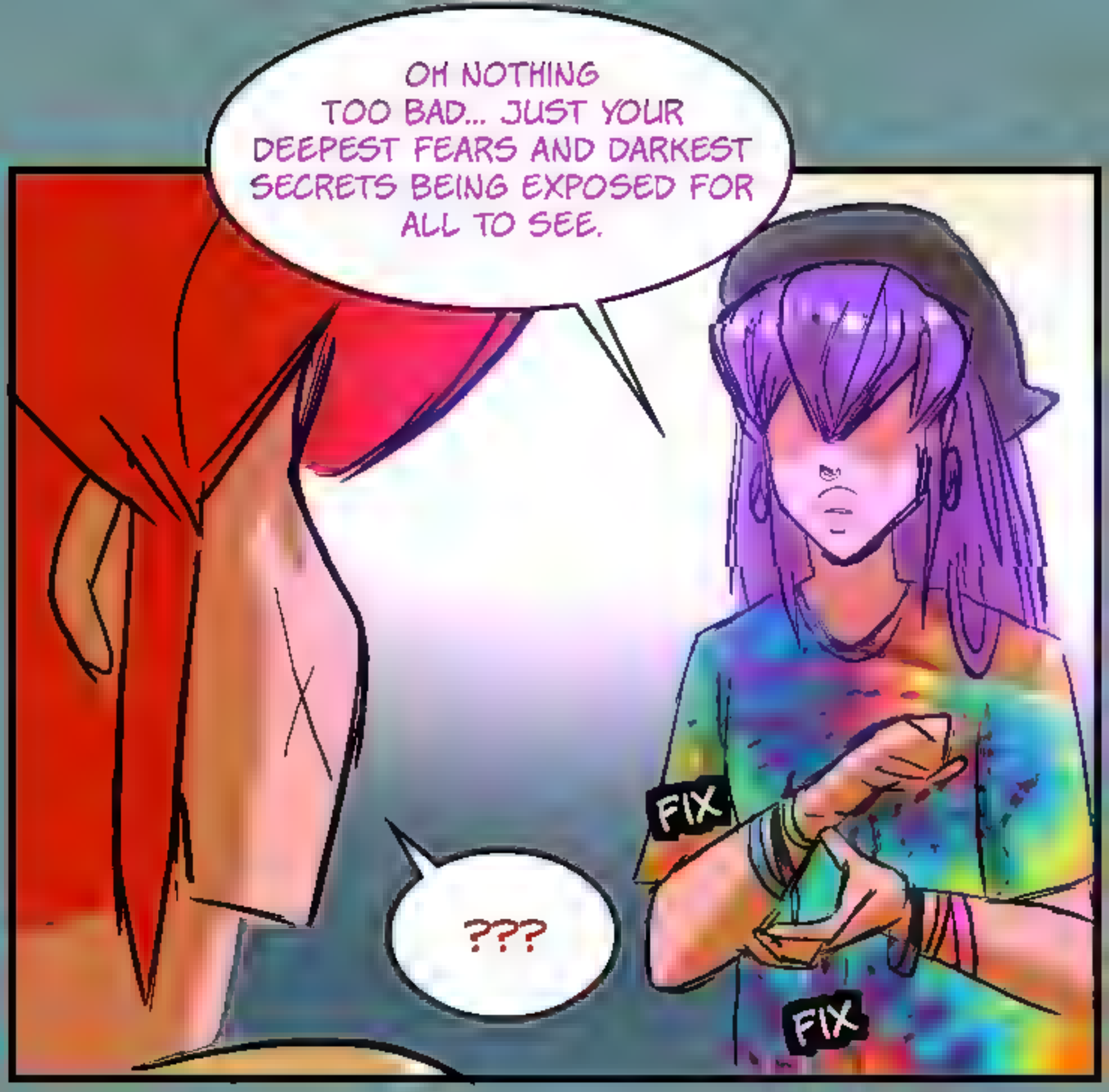
LAST ONE BACK IS A SHADOW SOLDIER!!
ZZAAAA!

RAHAHAHA!!!




ARGH... SHE PICKED *THAT* REALM?
YEP, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...

PARDON, BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS IN THIS REALM THAT MAKES YE BOTH SO NERVOUS?


OH NOTHING TOO BAD... JUST YOUR DEEPEST FEARS AND DARKEST SECRETS BEING EXPOSED FOR ALL TO SEE.
???
FIX
FIX

THIS IS
WHERE RAGAN TAKES
PEOPLE TO INTERROGATE
THEM

BUT DON'T
WORRY. IT'S NOT LIKE
YOU HAVE ANYTHING
TO HIDE, RIGHT?

ROOM of SWORDS
- END OF CHAPTER 69 -

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